

Finished July, 3rd '57 at Ipswich

My dear Sue I should think the last part of my letters would sometimes be very stupid, for I get so tired writing often that at least I cannot spell, & it seems as if the ideas must be equally obscure - I imagine you all at Beverly now, & as we have been having some quite warm weather, I fancy of course it is warm there, & you must be all enjoying the delicious sea-breezes & the luxury of sea-bathing - I quite long for a plunge - May tell me if Patrick ever received the pamphlet in cotton? it is for journal - The Sunday after Versailles Dr. Jay & I took our way to the other Protestant church across the river & near St. Leonard, said by some to be a better preacher than Coquerel. Madame went with us, having been ^{near} before in a Protestant church. We were disappointed in not hearing Monod, a stranger, a Swiss, preaching instead; it was a fair sermon, but I did not hear this time in Paris any preacher I liked so well as Martin, whom I heard in the winter - Madame had asked me so many times to go with her to the Champs Elysees that, as she proposed going with her mother to take her a drive as she was not quite well, I agreed to go with her - But first I had to go back & take my poor feet out of torture, for Dr. Jay & the woman who brought them home finished, both insisted the boots were large enough & fitted me admirably, but my feet seem a 'fit' & ask more room, & that morning's relay in new boots & the warm weather since & walking so much have reduced them to pretty much the last extremity - Madame's exclamation when she saw my feet was, "Ah! que vous êtes coquette!" Though she told me one day she thought I liked always to be well dressed but I was not "coquette" - Well having relieved my feet, Madame & I sortied again, & taking a fiacre by the hour wended our way to the Faubourg St. Germain "ou le boulevard" - Where going into a handsome hotel & mounting sundry flights of stairs, we found ourselves in the little suite of rooms inhabited by Madame. Petteyault - a fine looking old woman who looked as if she might have had a very aristocratic air in her younger days - The rooms were prettily furnished, chiefly with the work of her own hands, couches & chairs covered with handsome embroidery - Madame says they lost a great deal of fortune in the revolution of '90 - That her father was a very wealthy man - We took a turn through the Champ Elysees, but it was too early for mans yet to be out, though we saw some handsome equipages & women - Dr. Jay & I both think the French women handsomer than the English - You see occasionally a handsome woman in

England, & you see a great many really pretty ones. In France you
see many more pretty ones, & such exquisite faces! And the
old women such as one meets in the omnibuses are numerous beyond
expression! On returning to leave Madame P. we made a short call ^{for her}
again, & then Madame & I walked back, coming through the gardens
of the Tuilleries, where was quite a crowd - Madame insisted on Dr.
Gray & I dining with her, & when she set her heart on a point I gene-
rally gave it up, it being hopeless to contend against her French vol-
ubility - Meantime Dr. Gray had spent the afternoon in the church
of St. Denis - In the eve. he went to call on M. de Noé who had sent an
apology for failing in an appointment from being unwell, & I went to
visit Anna - Monday we went shopping spending pretty much
all day in that enlivening occupation, though I came back in time
to go with Dr. Gray & call on la Comtesse de Noé, M. de Noé having
left her card on me of his visit, & you know it is the foreign custom
for strangers to make the first call though I must say I think it new
abroad for Americans to take up that fashion because they reside in Paris
& wait to visit their countrymen until they have been to make their
first visit, the consequence is I made very few calls in Paris - Tuesday
afternoon Dr. Gray came for me early to go & leave some cards, & on our way
to make a farewell visit to M. Jay we went in to the curious old
church of St. Etienne du Mont, which is chiefly remarkable for a screen
dividing the choir, of light open-work in stone, & ascended to on
each side by singular sinistral staircases, most light & unsubstantial
looking - Wednesday we went to dine with Mr. Delessert - The French
fashion of dressing for dinner is so much more sensible than the
English! It is as we dress at home in high necks & short sleeves & we took
a fiacre to drive to Passy, which is about 3 miles from Paris, & is a
little suburban village, the narrow streets flanked as usual by high
houses & walls - We drew up before a large gate & passing into the house
saw a hall open before us & flights of handsome wide stairs leading down,
we descended, a great mirror facing you so that one could see oneself
to full advantage descending as it were on a flight opposite - Down the
flights & at the bottom an antechamber where waited footmen in
livery who ushered us into a salon adjoining where we found Madame
Delessert & sundry gentlemen - Madame Delessert is a charming looking
person somewhat the same kind expression & manner of Mrs. Guild
of whom she put me much in mind - Very ladylike & sweet -

She introduced me to her daughter - Madame Bottinger, a bright, lively
looking woman, & whom I was quite surprised to find was the
mother of a pretty creature of 16 perhaps, whom Madame Delessert
introduced as her grand daughter, & who is one of the prettiest
creatures I have seen this long while, with true Titian colored
hair - The gentlemen I was introduced to by degrees in the course
of the visit, but you may ^{like to} know their names, as Jusseau, Decacone,
Bignonist & Richard, Titianist, Falencienne a naturalist. La Roche
the librarian, M. de Noé, Mr. Bottinger, & the husband of the young-
est daughter, a stylish looking person in rose colored silk, flannel,
a jacket buttoned to the throat & cut up in the little shirt with
baubles as is now the fashion, & the hair dressed with rose colored
ribbons; ~~with the hair~~ a very pretty becoming dress to the dark eyed young
Baronne - The ladies dressed were all very tasteful & pretty, their
most distinguishing feature being simplicity from harmony of colour
throughout, & so little ornament to bewilder me - You could take in
the whole dress with one look, & think it marvellously pretty too -
Madame Delessert proposed very soon that I should walk out to
see the grounds for Passy in their country seat - The house stands
as I have said along the street, & from the rooms we had descended
to you walk out in the terrace, from whence the grounds slope down
to the river, beautifully laid out with walks among green turf & fine
trees & plants & flowers, all in admirable cultivation - In one part is a
pretty Swiss cottage, but as the wind was rather chill Madame Delessert
feared lest I should take cold & proposed our returning - Some other ladies
came in, but I did not make out their names, and perhaps there were
one or two more gentlemen - but that I am intended to do I have men-
tioned, but by mistake & Dr. Gray's aid I made out their names Mr.
Delessert introduced me in to Salmer which was in a room opening from the
other side of the ante-chamber & commanding from its large windows
the same fine view of the grounds, & the country & beyond the other side
of the river - It was a very handsome dinner, entirely in French style,
& the cooking very delicious - The centre of the table was decorated with
a neat bouquet of flowers made flat but arranged very tastefully - I
sat between Mr. Delessert & Mr. Jusseau, whose look is a singular looking
man with I think the narrowest face I ever saw - But a gentle,
pleasant manner - After dinner ^{some} which ladies & gentlemen rose to take
we moved again into the salon - If it had been warmer we should
have gone out upon the terrace for tea - The salon opened into another

anteroom, & beyond opened a billiard room. Altogether making a fine
suite of rooms. They were simply furnished as for summer, waxy floor
of course, & the walls were hung with a flowered chintz instead of
paper, no curtains in the windows, & the furniture white & covered.
With the same chintz - I talked somewhat with the Proprietor
Mr. Richard, & Mr. de Giv. & the ladies, &c. And later in the Ev. Mrs.
Lacey, another with pretty daughter, & a few gentlemen came in.
Altogether we had a charming time. Tomorrow morning Dr. Gray went
with Mr. Jussieu to make a reconnaissance in different parts of the city.
Met about 10 o'clock & drove to the R. R. Station to make an excu-
sion to Chartres to see its venerable old cathedral. Part of the R. R. line
was very interesting, for we had a good view of the Palace of Versailles
& looked down long perspectives as we skirted the boundaries
of the great Park. At St. Germain we had a glimpse at the exterior of the
famous academy, & at Maintenon a good view of the remains of the
great Regent's chateau Louis XIV only just begun. Chartres is a curious interesting
old town, & the Cathedral is very fine. The exterior is very imposing
from its ancient air, & such better blue flowers as were growing from the
niches high up in air. The interior was some very curious carvings
around the choir, & when we went in the organ was seen through
the aisles. The view from the end of the nave down the chancel was
very fine: the choir ending in a semi-circle, upheld by 5 narrow windows
of stained glass, & a series of unequal heights & the clustered pillars ver-
tically were curving into the top, having a very unique effect. And
the columns in the nave were of enormous size. The Church is filled
with superb stained glass, 130 windows. Dr. Gray climbed the towers as
there was a fine view, but the ladies did not attempt it, & Aunt Anna
& many being tired went back to the hotel to rest. I afterwards went
up to the Infirmary, near enough to a great window to see how it
was all pieced next in huge mosaic, & how rude & rough it looked when
the effect below was so good. I also got a better idea of the size & height.
One chapel at the side is dedicated to a black virgin, whose black gaze
shines out conspicuous from the usual tinsel drapery, aloft on a column.
He returned to the hotel in time for the table d'hôte, giving Tracy her first
introduction, & got back to Paris about 9 1/2 heartily tired but having much
enjoyed our excursion.

Dr. Gray has been kindly sitting me with my journal, taking it up
since he has been again in England, and I will try before next week to have
it all made up in the proper state. Many thanks, dear Luc, for two
week's letters, & I hope I shall see you all soon.

With kindest love from us both, I am ever affec'd,
James.